(viii) CIL would undertake vertification of such consumers of erstwhile non-core sector consumers, in a time bound manner, either directly or through an agency, so as to check the veracity of their claim of being *bona fide* consumers of coal and thereafter act accordingly.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply given at (c) above.

Listing of Coal India

1023. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to get Coal India listed on the bourses to ensure vibrancy in its functioning and enable it to generate resources to meet country's requirements;

(b) whether Government constituted a GoM under Home Minister to study National Mineral Policy, 2007 and proposed coal mining, block auction for captive purposes by amending Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957;

(c) whether his Ministry approved appointments of 40 independent directors of CIL and its seven subsidiaries to bring vibrancy in its functioning; and

(d) the recommendations of the GoM and steps taken to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) 28 independent directors have been appointed on the Boards of Directors of Coal India Limited and its subsidiary companies.

(d) The Group of Ministers (GoM) recommended that the proposal for introduction of auction of coal mining blocks for captive use through competitive bidding by amending the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 may be placed before Cabinet for approval. The matter was placed before the Cabinet which has approved the proposal.

Development work on the surface of underground coal mines

†1024. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has permitted the development work on the surface of the areas acquired for underground coal mines after carrying out the mining work;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the offers made to Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. It is normal practice for the coal companies to construct buildings, roads, stadiums, parks, etc. in the areas depending on suitability of ground where underground mining has been completed.

In case of abandoned open cast mines, apart from afforestation, the sites are converted

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

to recreation parks, pisciculture farms and also act as water supply sources for local neighbourhood. There are some mines which have been given to West Bengal Government for water supply schemes.

(b) However, no specific offers have been received by the Government for development of surface areas over worked out underground mines.

Target for broadband connections

1025. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a target to provide two crore broadband connections by the year 2010;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that even less than 25 lakhs broadband connections were provided in the last seven years; and

(c) if so, the specific efforts proposed to be made for achieving this target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Broadband Policy 2004 envisaged a target of 2 crore Broadband connections by 2010. As on 30th September, 2007, 26.12 lakh broadband connections have been provided.

(c) In roder to increase the penetration of Broadband services in the country, various steps taken/being taken, *inter-alia*, are:

(i) Both outdoor and indoor usage of low power Wi-fi and Wireless Broadband systems in 2.4 GHz-2.4835 GHz band, and use of low power indoor systems in 5.15-5.35 GHz and 5.725-5.875 GHz have been delicensed.

(ii) Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 has been suitably amended to enable Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) support for provision of Broadband connectivity to villages in a phased manner.

(iii) Connectivity of 512 Kbps with Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL) 2 Plus technology (on wire) is being provided to Common Service Centres (CSCs) from 20,000 existing exchanges in rural areas having optical fibre connectivity.

(iv) USOF support is being provided for setting up and managing 7871 infrastructure sites spread over 500 Districts for provision of mobile services in rural and remote areas which are not covered by wireless signal. This infrastructure will be used to provide Broadband connectivity from the newly covered Block/Taluka headquarters.

(v) Government will now provide spectrum to three operators in the 2.5 GHz band for providing Broadband Wireless Access.

Death claims under Postal Life Insurance Scheme

1026. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state: